

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8628

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, SY, US

SUBJECT: JERUSALEM POST ARTICLE ON U.S. POSITION CONCERNING ISRAELI-
SYRIAN NEGOTIATION

FOLLOWING IS DCTOBER 19 ARTICLE BY JERUSALEM POST DIPLOMATIC
CORRESPONDENT DAVID LANDAU ON U.S. POSITION RE POSSIBLE ISRAELI
NEGOTIATIONS WITH SYRIA.

BEGIN TEXT

1. THE U.S. HAS NOTASKED ISRAEL TO SOFTEN ITS POSITION
ON POSSIBLE NEGOTIATIONS WITH SYRIA, HIGHLY PLACED GOVERN-
MENT SOURCES SAID LAST NIGHT. WASHINGTON HAS NOT URGED
JERUSALEM TO DRAWUP A SPECIFIC OFFER, NO HAS IT
SPECIFICALLY CHALLENGED ISRAEL'S INSISENCE THAT NO
EXISTING GOLAN SETTLEMENT BE REMOVED IN THE CONTEXT OF
AN INTERIM AGREEMENT

2. IN FACT,THE SOURCES SAID, WASHINGTON HAS INDICATED
THAT, JUDING FROM ITS OWN CONTACTS WITHDAMASCUS, IT
BELEIVES THE SYRAINS ARE NOT INTERESTED IN NEGOTIATIONS
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AT THIS TIME.

3. WASHINGTON HAS APPARENTLY NOT GIVEN UP ITS EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS AND STILL HOPES THAT SYRIA MIGHT IN TIME RECONSIDER ITS POSITION.

4. BUT THERE IS NO ATMOSPHERE OF PRESSURE OR OF A DELIBERATE AMERICAN ATTEMPT TO PUSH ISRAEL INTO CONCESSIONS IN THE HOPE OF WINNING THE SYRIANS, THE GOVERNMENT SOURCES ASSERTED.

5. THEY WERE COMMENTING ON A REPORT FROM WASHINGTON(IN FRIDAY'S POST). WASHINGTON OFFICIAL SOURCES HAD SAID, ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT, THAT THE U.S. DID NOT ACCEPT ISRAEL'S VIEW THAT NO SETTLEMENT BE REMOVED UNDER AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT.

6. THE ISRAELI SOURCES SAID LAST NIGHT THAT NO SUCH MESSAGE HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO ISRAEL THROUGH DIPLOMATIC OR OTHER CHANNELS. THEY WERE NOT PREPARED TO SEE THE REPORT IN FRIDAY'S PRESS AS SUCH A MESSAGE, OR AS AN INITIAL ATTEMPT BY THE U.S. TO SOFTEN ISRAELI PUBLIC OPINION ON THE GOLAN ISSUE.

7. THEY WERE ALSO NOT PREPARED TO SPECULATE ON WHAT THE ACTUAL U.S. POSITION ON THE GOLAN SETTLEMENTS MIGHT BE. SINCE NEGOTIATIONS DID NOT SEEM IMMINENT--THERE WAS NO POINT IN SPECULATING, THEY REMARKED.

8. POLITICAL OBSERVERS HERE HAVE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT ISRAEL'S ORIGINAL HOPE THAT ITS POSITION ON THE GOLAN WOULD BE INCORPORATED, BY IMPLICATION, IN THE U.S.- ISRAEL MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WAS NOT REALIZED BECAUSE OF LAST MINUTE AMERICAN BACKTRACKING.

9. ACCORDING TO AN EARLY DRAFT OF THE MEMORANDUM(SIGNED ON SEPTEMBER 1 TOGETHER WITH THE SINAI INTERIM AGREEMENT), THE U.S. WAS TO HAVE PLEDGED " NOT TO EXPECT" FROM ISRAEL IN AN INTERIM GOLAN NEGOTIATION GREATER CONCESSIONS THAN THOSE OUTLINED BY PREMIER RABIN IN HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON LAST JUNE. END TEXT.

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